

## QUEEN'S LOVE STORY

How Victoria Proposed to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg.

### MEMORY REVERED IN GOTHA

Reigning Family Greatly Beloved by People of Duchy.

### TRACES ANCESTRY FAR BACK

Descended From Wettin, Who Ruled That Part of Germany Fifteen Hundred Years Ago.

By WILLIAM E. CURTIS.  
Written for The Star and the Chicago Record-Herald.

The capital of the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, situated upon the edge of the Thuringian forest, and commanded by the ancient castle of Friedenstein, is one of the loveliest towns and most desirable places of residence for quiet people in all Europe. While it does not appeal to those who seek excitement and thrills, it is an ideal home for students, artists and people of small means, who are content with such society.

There are many handsome villas with spacious grounds and tasteful gardens, extensive parks and promenades, wide streets and public squares, a good theater, a fine opera, a picture gallery and schools of all kinds, which are patronized by many English families who have sons and daughters to educate.

There is a small museum filled with a collection of curios and historical relics which accumulated during many generations in the ducal palace, and were transferred to this modern, fireproof structure in 1878 in order to make them secure. I do not know where I have ever seen so small a museum in which are so many interesting objects. They are arranged with great taste and are kept with great care. Their value is enhanced in that they are the property of the duke, and belonged to so many different owners—all of them respected and esteemed rulers of the duchy. The library of 250,000 volumes is one of the finest in Europe.

#### Built by Ernest the Pious.

The palace, or castle, as it is called, was built by Ernest the Pious, in 1534-44, and is a huge building of four stories and 268 rooms, surrounding an enormous quadrangle large enough for the maneuvers of a brigade of horsemen, with towers 140 feet high at each end. The front windows overlook the city, the windows on the side overlook a lovely park, and the living rooms of the ducal family command vistas that make them very attractive. The apartments of the duke and although they are occupied only a small portion of the year, they are comfortable and airy, and the corridors are 270 sets of antlers from stags shot in the neighboring preserve. They are the pride of the late duke, described in seven seasons.

In the drawing rooms are many quaint portraits, including several of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria, as children. Prince Albert's playthings are preserved in a cabinet. There is a rare collection of silver and china that has been handed down through many generations of the ducal family, and a manuscript 18th century illuminated, which once belonged to the Grand Duke Otto III, who lived in the nineteenth century. The Chinese porcelain in several cabinets is particularly good, and is said to have been collected by dukes who lived in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Most of the ornaments that were formerly in the castle, the custodian told us, had been sent over to the museum, and he advised us to pay special attention to a remarkable collection of rings that we would find there. He said it was unsurpassed except in the South Kensington Museum of London, and I am sure that he is right.

The first commercial school in Germany, the first fire and the first life insurance companies were started at Gotha.

#### A Grandson of Victoria.

Charles Edward, the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, is a grandson of Queen Victoria and a son of the late Prince Leopold. He has the English title of his father, the Duke of Albany. He is a young man of twenty-six years and was married a few years ago to a daughter of the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. The people have great affection for him and recognize in his character as well as his appearance a close resemblance to his grandfather, the late Prince Albert, the beloved husband of Queen Victoria, who was born in the neighborhood at a summer castle and was brought up in Gotha. His elder brother Ernest, inherited the ducal title.

There are many delightful associations with Prince Albert in Gotha, although he seldom came here after his marriage. Several portraits hang in the living rooms of the castle, and his memory was kept alive by repeated visits to Gotha by Queen Victoria when as you remember, was a very sentimental woman, and loved every place that reminded her of the man she idolized. The association has been also strengthened by his son, the late Duke of Albany, who reigned here for nearly thirty years and had a deep and sincere veneration for the sterling character of his father.

The ancestors of the late Prince Albert were the same as those of the royal family at Saxony. They were descended from a brave knight named Wettin, who ruled over this part of Germany 1,500 years ago, but, at the time of the reformation, there was a split. The elder branch, known as the Ernestine branch, which remained loyal to the church of Rome, have since retained the throne.

#### Division of a Kingdom.

The old kingdom of Thuringia was divided among the members of the family, but the three duchies of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha were afterward reunited in the middle of the eighteenth century under Ernest I. and have since been governed jointly, having the same fundamental law, separate legislatures. The Coburg branch consists of eleven and the Gotha branch of nineteen members. The two branches meet annually other year and hold a joint session every third year, alternately at the towns of Coburg and Gotha. They have a common cabinet and common laws.

The population of the duchy consists of 257,187 Protestants, 3,807 Catholics, 714 Jews and 460 persons with no stated religion. Gotha has 36,947 and Coburg 22,488 population.

While Luther visited Gotha frequently and on several occasions preached in the old Stadt-kirche, there are no places closely identified with him. The only relic of interest that I could find is an autograph letter in the museum written by King Henry VIII of England, denouncing Luther as a dangerous person to the state as well as to the church and advising that he should be immediately imprisoned or executed.

The greatest interest, as I have already suggested, is to be found in the simple, unostentatious life of Prince Albert, who was saddened because of a quarrel between his parents. His mother left his father in 1824, when he was only five years old, and he did not see her again until he was a man. He was educated at Gotha and at the University of Bonn and is represented to have been a thoughtful, studious boy, fond of music, sports, reading and natural history. His cabinet of natural history specimens may be seen at the museum, also a medal that was presented to him as a prize for services in the Gotha gymnasium, when he was sixteen years old.

**Bride and Groom Cousins.**  
Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were first cousins. His father was the eldest son of Ernest Frederick, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha; the third son, Leopold, became King of Belgium; the second son became King Consort of Portugal. The eldest daughter, Sophia, married an Austrian general, Count Metternich; the second daughter, Antonette, married Duke Alexander of Wurttemberg, brother of the Empress of Russia; the third daughter married the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, and the fourth married the Duke of Kent, and became the mother of Queen Victoria.

It is an interesting coincidence that the cousins in their infancy had the same nurse, Madame Siebold, the accoucheuse of the royal family of England. Victoria was born at Kensington Palace, London, May 24, 1819, the only child of the Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III, because of the death of William IV, the third son of George III, she succeeded to the throne June 20, 1837, and married Prince Albert February 10, 1840.

Prince Albert Francis Augustus Charles Emanuel was born August 28, 1819, and died at Windsor Castle, England, December 14, 1861.

After the death of her beloved husband Queen Victoria wrote his life and biography. She furnished most of the material and revised the manuscripts. The book was published in June, 1867, and was the last work of her life, which passed between husband and wife, and between their mothers and other relatives. The documents are supplemented by quotations from the diaries of both Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and by many documents. In revising the manuscript her majesty added many foot notes, giving her own recollection of events, and described, and her testimony as to the "noble spirit of self sacrifice and devotion of the man she adored." And what she termed "evidence of the presence of a large and loving nature, where the loveliness takes hold of all humanity."

**Marriage Decried in Infancy.**  
While the two infants were still in their cradles their marriage was agreed upon by their mothers. After the mother of Albert retired from Gotha his grandmother took up the correspondence, and when "the Mayflower," as Queen Victoria was called because of the month of her birth, was only four years old they were discussing the probabilities with great tenderness and affection.

Prince Albert and his brother, Prince Ernest, who was a year older, were placed under the care of Herr Florczulz of Coburg, who remained their tutor until they went to the University of Bonn, when they were sixteen and seventeen years old. Their boyhood does not seem to have been eventful; they were just like other children, but were brought up with unusual care. The diary which Albert kept during his childhood and the letters he wrote show that he was a thoughtful, generous, gentlemanly boy, appreciating every little kindness that was extended to him and taking great interest in animals, birds and natural history generally. He was a model youngster, and letters he wrote when he was twelve years old show a maturity of mind and thought that is remarkable.

The cousins first met at Kensington Palace in 1838, when they were seventeen years old. The Princess Ernest and Albert having visited England for several weeks at that time. The grandmother of Albert had died a short time before. King Leopold of Belgium testifies that "she had already, at a very early period, formed the ardent wish that a marriage should one day take place between her beloved grandson, Albert, and the Flower of May, as she loved to call the little Prince Victoria." Both evidently understood the situation. During Albert's visit to England they were constantly together, and seemed to be satisfied with the situation.

**Fatigued by Society.**  
The young prince complains, however, of the fatigue he suffered from the social events he was compelled to attend. "The climate of this country," he writes, "is of living and the late hours do not agree with me," he said. "Dear aunt (the duchess of Kent) is very kind to us, and everything she can to please us, and our cousin (Queen Victoria) also is very amiable." Queen Victoria, in a footnote on the page where this letter is printed, says: "Yet nothing, at the same time, could exceed the kind attentions he paid to every one—frequently standing the whole evening that no one might be neglected."

On leaving England the prince went back to his studies at Bonn, where he seems to have been a quiet, orderly and conscientious student, and, as his biographer says, "maintained the early promise of his youth by the eagerness with which he applied himself to his work, and by the rapid progress which he made, especially in the natural sciences, in political economy and in philosophy. Music, also, of which he was passionately fond, was not neglected, and he had already shown considerable talent as a composer. The prince also excelled in many exercises, and at a great fencing match, at which there were between twenty-five and thirty competitors, he carried off the first prize."

The idea had become generally accepted in England and Europe that a marriage was in contemplation between Prince Albert and the Princess Victoria, and was frequently commented upon. While he was at Bonn she ascended the throne. The cousins corresponded in a friendly, matter-of-fact way, and while their published letters are affectionate and full of interest, they contain no word of love or sentiment.

**Made Tour of Europe.**  
At the close of his university career Prince Albert made a tour of Europe accompanied by Baron Stockmar, and continued to correspond with the young queen in a friendly way. It was not until March, 1840, that the question of marriage was introduced. During that year Albert was invited to Windsor Castle, and arrived there Tuesday, the 8th of October, to meet the queen. The reception was cordial and affectionate, and the queen, who received them herself at the top of the staircase.

A few days after his arrival the young queen informed Lord Melbourne, prime minister of England, that she had made up her mind to marry her cousin, and he received the announcement with great approval of her minister, she sent an intimation to the prince, through Baron Alvensleben, that she wished to speak to him privately the next day.

Queen Victoria's recollection of the incident is given in his biography. The prince found her alone and after a few minutes conversation she told him why she had sent for him. It was a delicate matter for a maiden of twenty, and the proposal of marriage must be made by her. She said that the prince accepted her offer without hesitation and with

the warmest demonstrations of kindness and affection. I told him it was a great sacrifice on his part, but he would not allow his letters to be so full of love and affection, which he did, who congratulated us both, and seemed very happy."

In a letter to her uncle, King of Belgium, written the same afternoon, Victoria announced the engagement, and says: "He seems perfect and I think that I have the prospect of very great happiness before me. These last few days have passed like a dream to me, and I am so bewildered that I hardly know how to write, but I do feel very happy."

The party of the second part wrote in a similar tone to Baron Stockmar, who said, saying: "Your prophecy is fulfilled."

While the young society women are not located at the sales stations, there is still great interest taken by them in the outcome of the campaign during the holiday season. It was earnestly hoped that at least \$5,000 would be realized and quiet matter to that end is still going on.

# 21c Hand-Embroidered Linen Handkerchiefs 44c

That Some Are Bargains at \$1.00 Will be Evident to All With Eyes.

## On First Floor.

These Handkerchiefs and a thousand and one such bargains need but little announcement in the newspapers. It's an old story—these after-Christmas bargains at the Palais Royal. This morning here was more like the day before than the day after Christmas. But, as usual, many forgot the downstairs and upstairs floors.

"Christmas money" can be more profitably invested upstairs than down—so say the chiefs of the third floor.

## On Third Floor.

Ten Seconds—By Elevator.

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| \$125.00 Hudson Seal Coat, 52 inches, with mink collar and cuffs. Reduced to..... | \$90.00  |
| \$90.00 Near-seal Coat, 52 inches. Reduced to.....                                | \$75.00  |
| \$150 Hudson Seal Coat, 52 inches, trimmed in opossum. Reduced to.....            | \$110.00 |
| \$150 Hudson Seal Coat, 52 inches, plain model. Reduced to.....                   | \$100.00 |
| \$125.00 Hudson Seal Coat, 48 inches. Reduced to.....                             | \$90.00  |
| \$50.00 Fur Sets—raccoon, blue wolf, black wolf and black fox. Reduced to.....    | \$45.00  |
| \$125.00 Hudson Bay Bear and Wolf Sets, for big women. Reduced to.....            | \$75.00  |

## The Table Linens of 1910 to Go.

Will the 1911 Patterns be Better? Note the 1910 Reduced Prices!

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| 75c Silver Bleached Satin Damask, 72 inches wide.....   | 59c    |
| 75c German Silver Bleached Damask, 72 inches wide.....  | 79c    |
| \$1.25 Fine Bleached Satin Damask, 72 inches wide.....  | 98c    |
| \$1.50 All-linen Satin Damask Napkins. Dozen.....       | \$1.10 |
| \$1.50 Extra Heavy Bleached Damask, 72 inches wide..... | \$1.19 |
| \$2.00 Pattern Cloths: satin damask.....                | \$1.59 |
| \$2.00 Bleached Satin Damask Napkins. Dozen.....        | \$1.69 |
| \$2.50 Pattern Cloths: satin damask.....                | \$1.98 |
| \$2.50 Bleached Satin Damask Napkins. Dozen.....        | \$2.19 |



Second Floor.

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| \$8.50 Fringed Sets, cloth and 1 dozen napkins.....          | \$4.98 |
| \$8.00 Hemstitched Sets, cloth and 1 dozen napkins.....      | \$6.50 |
| \$8.00 Hemstitched Sets, cloth and 1 dozen napkins.....      | \$7.49 |
| 73c Sheets, the well known "Mowhawk," size 81x90 inches..... | 65c    |
| 60c Linen-English Sheets; extra good values at 60c.....      | 48c    |
| 16c Pillow Cases, the famous "Diana" make.....               | 12c    |
| The usual 12 1/2c Pillow Cases are reduced to.....           | 9c     |
| 20c Turkish Bath Towels; 22x24 inches.....                   | 22c    |
| 37 1/2c Turkish Bath Towels; 20x40 inches.....               | 29c    |

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GRILL ROOM with a la carte service day and evening.

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## NO INDIGESTION OR STOMACH DISORDER.

Stops Food Fermentation and Relieves Gas, Heartburn and Dyspepsia in Five Minutes.

Why not get some now—this moment, and forever rid yourself of Stomach trouble and Indigestion? A dieted stomach gets the blues and grumbles. Give it a good rest, take Pape's Diapiesis to start the digestive juices working. There will be no dyspepsia or belching of Gas or eructations of undigested food; no feeling like a lump of lead in the stomach or heartburn, sick headache and Dizziness; your food will not ferment and poison your breath with noxious odors.

Pape's Diapiesis costs only 50 cents for a large case at any drug store here, and will relieve the most obstinate case of Indigestion and Upset Stomach in five minutes.

There is nothing else better to take Gas from Stomach and cleanse the stomach and intestines, and, besides, one single dose will digest and prepare for assimilation into the blood all your food the same as a sound, healthy stomach would do it.

When Diapiesis works, your stomach rearranges itself in order, cleans up and then you feel like eating when you come to the table, and you eat well and you feel good.

Immediate relief from all Stomach Misery is waiting for you as soon as you decide to take a little Diapiesis. Tell your druggist that you want Pape's Diapiesis, because you want to become thoroughly healthy and take time.

Pape's Diapiesis will regulate any out-of-order Stomach within five minutes, and digest promptly, without any pain or discomfort, all of any kind of food you eat.

## BIG SCHOONER TO BE BUILT.

Capt. Walter Griffith Contracts for One of 800 Tons.

Capt. Walter Griffith, master of the schooner William Thomas Moore, has closed a contract with a shipbuilding company at Seaford, Del., for the construction of a six-hundred-ton schooner for Atlantic coasting trade. The floor timbers and frame of the schooner are to be of the best white oak, and the material for the construction of the vessel is now being assembled, and her keel will be laid down in a few days. The new vessel is to be named the Seaford, and Capt. Griffith will have command.

Work on the new eight-hundred-and-fifty-ton schooner, in process of construction at Seaford for Capt. H. M. Bell, is being pushed, and it is thought that she will be ready for launching within the next two or three weeks. Capt. Bell expects to have her ready to go into commission in the latter part of February or early in March next.

Nathan Mills, seventy years old, colored, of Milltown, a village near Easton, Md., was killed Sunday evening by his nephew, John Mills, twenty-six years old. Deputy Sheriff Macchia arrested the young negro.

## WAR VETERAN, AGED 90, DEAD.

Passing of Gen. W. W. H. Davis, Who Fought in Mexico.

DOYLESTOWN, Pa., December 27.—Gen. W. W. H. Davis, a veteran of the Mexican and civil wars, died at his home here last night, aged ninety years.

December 5, 1846, he enlisted in the 1st Massachusetts Infantry for the Mexican war, and was commissioned first lieutenant December 31 of the same year. In 1847 he was made an adjutant, and in 1848 he was mustered out of the Mexican war.

In 1861 Gen. Davis organized the 104th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, and also Durrell's Battery. In the battle of Charleston, in 1864, he lost all of his

fingers on his right hand. In 1865 he was made brigadier general of the United States Volunteers for meritorious services.

He was president of the Bucks County Historical Society and was editor of the Doylestown Democrat until 1900.

Gen. Davis was a member of the Bucks county bar.

**Child Killed by Auto.**  
WILMINGTON, N. C., December 27.—Adell Roman, four-year-old daughter of an operative at Delgado cotton mills, on the outskirts of the city, was run over and instantly killed by an automobile in which N. B. Rankin, a local capitalist and prominent banker, was returning from a drive with members of his family yesterday evening. The coroner investigated the accident, finding no negligence, but recognizing Mr. Rankin as a lawyer and legislator, died here Sunday night.

**Ex-Representative Young Dead.**  
MOUNT STERLING, Ky., December 27.—John D. Young, aged seventy-eight years, former representative from the ninth Kentucky district and noted as a lawyer and legislator, died here Sunday night.

## GOLD IN CHICKEN'S CRAW.

Nugget Valued at \$10 Found by Pennsylvania Woman.

BEAVER FALLS, Pa., December 27.—While Mrs. Fred S. Brown, wife of the secretary of Conway borough, was cleaning a chicken here she found a gold nugget in its craw. Its value is estimated at \$10. Many persons went to the lot where the chicken was reared and excitement runs as high as if it had been found.